

[RETURN TO WEBSITE](#)

[SUBSCRIBE TO NEWSLETTER](#)



Murray Bridge Veterinary Clinic
140 Swanport Road
Murray Bridge, SA, 5253
mbvet@lm.net.au
www.murraybridgevet.com.au
Phone: [08 8531 4000](tel:0885314000)



Meet a
member of
our
Murray Bridge
Vet Clinic
Family!



We would like to introduce you to a member of our MBVC family- Robyn

Robyn is currently studying her Veterinary Nursing Certificate, and joined our team in 2018. We decided to ask her some burning questions!

1) What is your favourite animal breed?

Horses! I have grown up with them since I was born so being around them has become second nature. They are big, gentle giants.

2) What do you love most about your job?

Being able to give the best care to others animals when they need it. Also being able to care and comfort owners is fulfilling

3) What is your favourite thing/hobby to do after work?

Being able to saddle up my horse and go for a ride, or to play on the grass with my dogs and relaxing.

4) What pets do you have at home?

Lots of race horses! A Boxer named Ruby, Fox Terrier named Bella, and a Kelpie named Bess.

5) What is the naughtiest/cheekiest thing your pet has done?

My dog Ruby is very sneaky and if my car door is open even the slightest, she will pull it open and jump in and lay quietly until I have driven off. Once I'm driving, she will just sit up!



Hip Hip Hooray!!

A BIG Happy Birthday to our current Senior Pet Club and Healthcare members who will be celebrating in February:

Buddy - 11 years old

Nikki - 14 years old

Gypsy - 6 years old

MBVC Healthcare plans are available for cat and dogs of all ages! If you would like some more info on our Healthcare Plans please [Contact Us](#) or read more on our [website](#). Here you will find how the plan could help you to provide comprehensive preventative healthcare for your pet, spread the cost and take advantage of special offers for Pet Healthcare Member.



Puppy Pre School

Congratulations to the puppies who have graduated from the January Puppy Pre School Class.

Lotus
Star
Ally
Winston
Angelica
Maxx

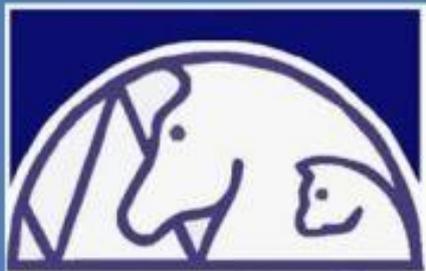
To view all the adorable graduation photos please visit our [website](#).

What will my puppy gain from Puppy Pre School?

Your puppy will gain valuable social skills by simply interacting with other puppies and people. These skills the pup develops it will use for life. Your puppy will learn how to interact with lots of people, loud noises and children and even a visit to the vet will become fun rather than something to shake about. Your puppy will develop into a friendly, educated, confident adult dog.

How will I benefit?

Owning a dog will be enjoyable rather than a chore. Having an obedient, well socialised dog is much more pleasant and stress free. You will also gain knowledge in all areas of pet care from dental, nutrition, solving behavioural problems, toilet training and lots, lots more. Weekly freebies and samples to take home for the puppy. For more information please visit our [website](#).



Murray Bridge
Vet Clinic



Did you know
you can now
make your pet's
appointments
online?



Have you tried online booking yet?

Its really simple. Visit us online at murraybridgevet.com.au or follow the link from your reminder email or SMS.

Why heartworm prevention is so important



How many pesky mosquitoes have you seen this summer? Here's some food for thought: wherever there are mosquitoes, there is the risk of heartworm disease for your pet!

Heartworm is a dangerous worm, and when an infected mosquito feeds on your pet's blood, the heartworm larvae enter the bloodstream. The scary part is that these larvae mature into worms that can reach up to 30cm in length.

The worms mature in the bloodstream and eventually become lodged in your pet's heart leading to heart failure. It is at this point that the disease can be fatal. Dogs are more commonly affected by heartworm disease but cats may also be at risk.

The prevalence of heartworm in Australia has been mainly in tropical and subtropical coastal regions but in recent decades it has become increasingly prevalent in more southern areas.

The take-home point is that with changing weather patterns and subsequent alterations in the distribution of mosquito populations, heartworm disease can be unpredictable. This is why prevention is SO important as we just don't know where it might strike next.

Prevention of heartworm is far better than an attempt at a cure but it's important to realise that not all heartworm prevention is the same so it's best to ask us what is the best prevention for your pet.

Most importantly, you need to be aware that many of the intestinal 'all-wormer' tablets do not prevent against heartworm infection.

There are topical treatments, oral treatments and a yearly injection for dogs. Ask us for the most suitable prevention for your pet - we will make sure your pet is suitably protected.

Recognising a broken heart



We're not talking about a broken heart from lost love here but instead heart disease.

Most of the signs of heart disease are related to a decrease in the function of the heart. The signs can be subtle and sometimes hard to detect. Being able to recognise some of the early signs of this disease can make a big difference for your pet. It means we can initiate medical treatment and in most cases, ease the workload on the heart, meaning your pet will live a longer and healthier life.

Look out for these signs:

- + Coughing, especially at night
- + A reluctance to exercise and tiring more easily on walks
- + Laboured or fast breathing
- + Weakness or fainting associated with exercise
- + An enlarged abdomen
- + Weight loss or poor appetite

This example of why at least an annual check-up with us is important. We will always listen to your pet's heart as part of any physical exam and this allows us to detect any changes early. Sometimes we will hear a murmur (abnormal blood flow) or an arrhythmia (irregular rhythm). These may be reason for us to perform more tests such as x-rays, ultrasound and an ECG.

There are some excellent medications available to help a pet suffering from heart disease and the good news is that these can help your pet live a longer and near normal life.

If you are ever worried about your pet's health, you should call us for advice.

This study was EPIC!



Recent groundbreaking research into canine heart disease is changing the way we treat one of the most common heart conditions.

It is estimated that one dog in ten may suffer from some type of heart disease and there it's a particular type of heart disease called mitral valve disease that can lead to congestive heart failure, reduced quality of life and an overall shortened lifespan.

The EPIC (Evaluation of Pimobendan In dogs with Cardiomegaly) Study was the largest veterinary cardiology study in history. This groundbreaking study set out to answer a key question: Can a particular drug (pimobendan) delay the onset of congestive heart failure (CHF) in dogs with mitral valve disease?

The study, which began in 2010 and ran through to 2015, included investigators at 36 study centres in 11 nations across 4 continents. Investigators were held to rigorous scientific standards, and an independent team compiled and reported the findings.

The results concluded that dogs who received pimobendan experienced a 15-month delay in onset of clinical signs of CHF, cardiac-related death, or euthanasia. Some have described these results as 'epic' (pardon the pun!)

And the best news is that with x-rays and an ultrasound of the heart, along with the guidelines from the results of this study, we are now able to determine which of our patients with mitral valve disease will benefit from medication and which can be placed on a monitoring program. This means we can help your pet live a longer and healthier life.

If you have any questions about the management of heart disease or anything to do with your pet's health, we are always here to help.

A healthy mouth equals a healthy heart



Did you know that if your pet is suffering from dental disease they may be at risk of heart disease too?

When dental disease strikes, plaque and tartar that accumulate on the teeth lead to infection of the gums. Bacteria from this infection travel in the bloodstream around the body and can cause infection in the heart. This commonly occurs in the heart's lining and valves and is known as endocarditis.

And it's not only the heart that is affected; the kidneys, liver and lungs can all be damaged by the bacteria.

Thankfully many of these problems can be reversed if dental disease is treated and the health of your pet's mouth is improved.

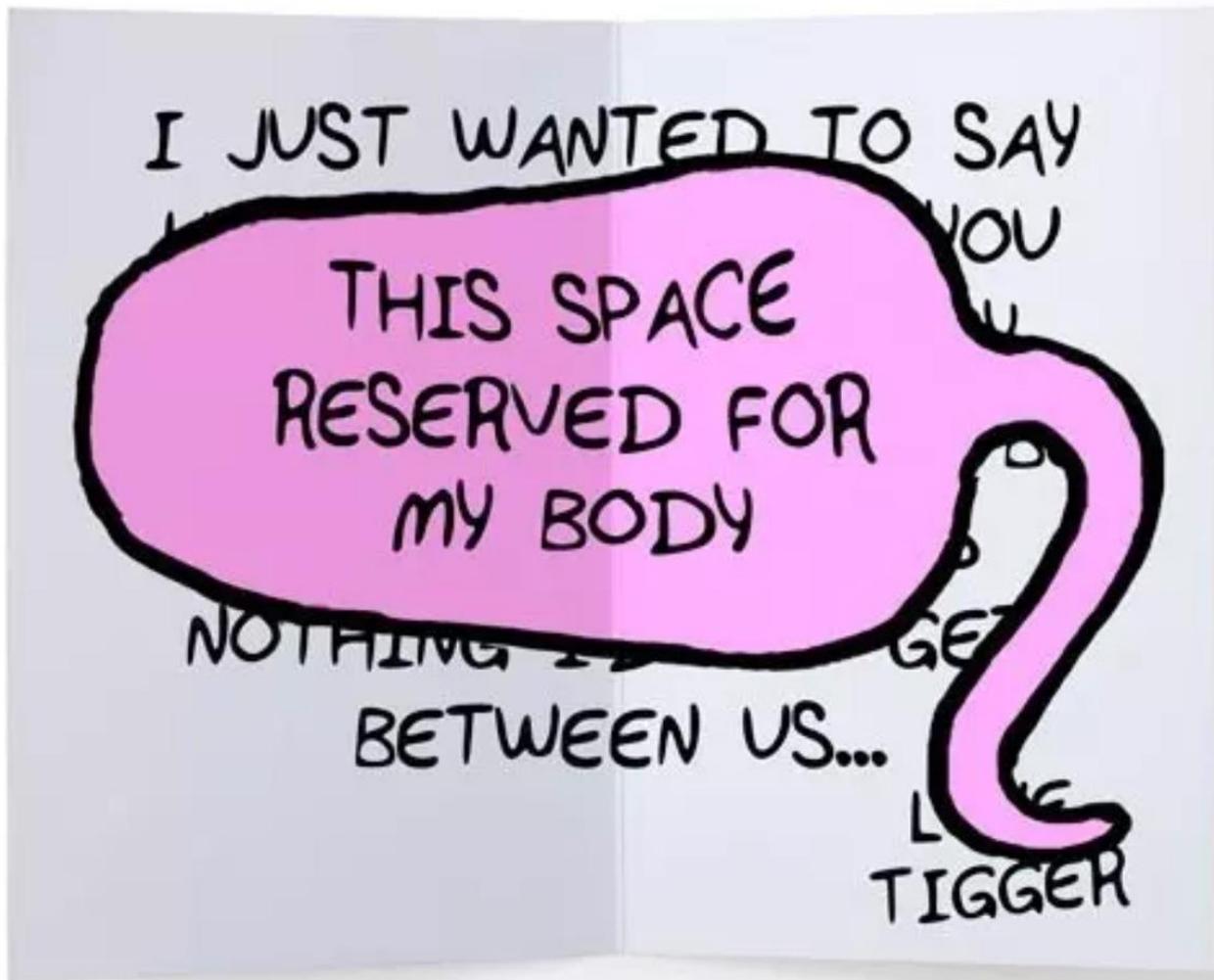
Top tips for the prevention of dental disease

- 1.** Lift your pet's lip and have a look and a smell. If you notice any yellowing of the teeth or redness of the gums OR your pet's breath smells a bit 'off', it is time for a checkup with us.
- 2.** Regardless of whether you think something's not quite right, get your pet's mouth checked regularly by us. The earlier we spot an issue the better the outcome. Dental checkups at least once a year should be non-negotiable.
- 3.** Get your pet eating the right diet. It's essential that our pets chew their food! There are some excellent dental diets available and they work really well so ask us for the best recommendation.
- 4.** Brush your pet's teeth. This is considered gold standard but just make sure you use a pet-approved toothpaste.

Don't be tempted by offers of 'anaesthesia free dentistry.' This somewhat 'shonky' form of teeth cleaning is simply cosmetic and it fails to address the root of the problem (removing the plaque and tartar and subsequent bacteria from under the gum-line). You can read more information about this [here](#).

We recommend a dental check-up at least once a year. Call us to book your pet in for a dental check-up today as you might be improving the health of their heart too.

If cats sent Valentine's Day cards



It's Valentine's Day this month and while it may not be everyone's cup of tea, we think this take on the whole event is pretty funny. If you [click here](#) you'll find '14 Valentine's Day cards you could only get from a cat.'

And we definitely DO NOT recommend giving your cat any of the favourite toys from card #14! They are all potentially dangerous if ingested by your cat!

This email contains comments of a general nature only and is not intended to be a substitute for professional veterinary advice. It should not be relied on as the basis for whether you do or don't do anything.

[View this newsletter online](#)

All content © Pet Pack 2019

You received this email because you're subscribed to our newsletter or are a client of Murray Bridge Veterinary Clinic

This email was sent to: (MemberEmail)

[Click here to unsubscribe](#)